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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Items 33 and 35 of the
provisional agenda*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 22 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation and the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a joint Russian-Palestinian communiqué, adopted in Moscow on 19 July 1996 at a regular meeting of the Russian-Palestinian Working Committee on the Middle East (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 33 and 35 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. V. LAVROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

(Signed) Dr. M. Nasser AL-KIDWA
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations

* A/51/150.

ANNEX

Joint Russian-Palestinian communiqué, adopted in Moscow on 19 July 1996

A regular meeting of the Russian-Palestinian Working Committee on the Middle East was held in Moscow on 19 July 1996 under the joint chairmanship of the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. V. V. Posuvalyuk, and the Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Mr. Mahmud Abbas (Abu Mazin). The representative of the Palestinian leadership was received by the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. E. M. Primakov.

During a detailed exchange of views on problems relating to the Middle East peace process, the importance of stepping up efforts to resume the Arab-Israeli talks on all tracks was emphasized. In this context, the constructive common Arab position agreed upon at the Cairo Summit is of great importance.

Both sides are convinced that progress towards a comprehensive and just settlement in the Middle East can and must be achieved on the basis of the agreements reached at the Madrid Peace Conference and in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the principle of "land for peace". The full implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreements that have already been signed is the guarantee of further progress. It was noted, in particular, that, at the current stage, the task of organizing, in a stable and constructive manner, talks on the final status of the Palestinian territories was of paramount importance.

The Russian side expressed its full support for the policy of the PLO leadership and the Palestinian National Authority in favour of continuing the dialogue and interaction with the Government of Israel in areas of mutual interest, including within the framework of the full implementation of the Interim Agreement of 1995. Moscow views the development of Palestinian self-rule as a major historic step towards the realization of the Palestinian people's legitimate right to self-determination, which includes the establishment of its own State.

The Palestinian side expressed its great appreciation for the Russian Federation's role as a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process, its positions and practical contribution to the efforts to achieve an Arab-Israeli settlement and to ensure stability and security in the Middle East. The PLO leadership reaffirmed its interest in developing political coordination and multifaceted cooperation with the Russian Federation, and in the Russian Federation's major contribution to the development of Palestinian self-administration and the settlement of the question of Palestine as a whole.

Agreement was reached on specific measures regarding the Middle East peace process and the development of friendly relations between the Russian Federation and Palestine.

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Fifty-first session
Item 54 of the provisional agenda*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 23 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 17 July 1996, Nicaragua and a very small number of other countries addressed a letter to you in which they requested you to include in the agenda of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly a so-called item entitled "Consideration of the exceptional situation of the inability, resulting from General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), of the 21.3 million people on Taiwan, Republic of China, to participate in the activities of the United Nations". Upon instruction from my Government, I hereby solemnly state our position as follows:

1. The letter and its annexes that appeared in document A/51/142 openly confound black and white and distort facts in a brazen attempt to create "two Chinas" and "one China, one Taiwan". This not only constitutes a serious encroachment upon China's sovereignty and a gross interference in its internal affairs, but also gravely contravenes the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), at which the Chinese Government and people express their utmost indignation. We are firmly opposed to any illegal activities of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries in violation of the spirit of the Charter by any country under whatever pretext, and strongly urge Nicaragua and a very small number of other countries to redress immediately all their erroneous acts.

2. This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China at the United Nations. Reviewing the past helps us understand the present. Twenty-five years ago, the

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General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session adopted by an overwhelming majority its historically significant resolution 2758 (XXVI). The resolution recognizes in unmistakable terms that "representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China are the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations and that the People's Republic of China is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council", and restores all "the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China" at the United Nations. The adoption of this resolution, embodying the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations is a historical necessity and a victory of justice. It has not only expelled the Taiwan authorities from China's seat in the United Nations, which they usurped in 1949, thus reversing the regression of history as a result of the Cold War and settling once and for all and in a just manner the question of China's representation at the United Nations, but also has foiled the schemes of a few countries to create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" in the United Nations.

However, since 1993, Nicaragua and a very small number of other Member States bought over by the Taiwan authorities, moving against the historical trend, have gone so far as to challenge the authority of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) and attempted to mislead the General Assembly to a consideration of the question of the so-called Taiwan's "representation". This is ignorance and mockery of history, pure and simple. The General Committee of the successive sessions of the General Assembly since the forty-eighth session have all made a just reply to this question, i.e., not to include the question of the so-called Taiwan's "representation" in the agenda of the General Assembly, which has reflected fully the strong will of the overwhelming majority of States Members of the United Nations to safeguard the seriousness of the Charter and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). If Nicaragua and some other countries continue to cling obstinately to their erroneous course and position, they will undoubtedly come to the same end and pay their own price for it.

3. As is known to all, Taiwan has been an inalienable part of China since ancient times. The 1943 Cairo Declaration and the 1945 Potsdam Proclamation reaffirmed China's sovereignty over Taiwan. The 158 countries that have established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China so far all recognize that there is only one China in the world, that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal Government representing China in its entirety and that Taiwan is part of China. Though the two sides of the Taiwan Strait have been in a state of temporary separation since October 1949, the status of Taiwan as a part of the territory of the People's Republic of China has never changed, nor has the Government of the People's Republic of China ever given up its jurisdiction over Taiwan. No change to the way in which leaders of Taiwan are produced can change the fact that Taiwan is a part of the Chinese territory and that Taiwan's leaders are leaders of a region of China. Therefore, Taiwan has no qualifications whatsoever to join, in any form whatsoever, the United Nations or any intergovernmental international organizations of the United Nations system in which representatives of sovereign States participate.

4. The question of Taiwan is an internal affair of China which must be settled by the Chinese people. Any involvement by foreign forces constitutes an

interference in China's internal affairs, to which the Chinese people are strongly opposed. The struggle against the separation of Taiwan from its motherland and Taiwan independence, waged by the entire Chinese people, including the Taiwan compatriots, since June last year has fully demonstrated the resolve and ability of the Chinese Government and people to safeguard their State sovereignty and territorial integrity. This struggle has dealt a heavy blow to the forces seeking independence and separation on Taiwan and has produced a significant and far-reaching positive impact on the promotion of peaceful reunification. There will not be tensions in the relations between the two sides of the Strait and dialogue can also be resumed as long as Taiwan desists from seeking independence and separation, the Taiwan authorities stop their activities aimed at creating "two Chinas" and "one China, one Taiwan" in the world and foreign forces stop supporting and conniving at the separatist moves by certain forces in Taiwan.

5. It is the strong aspiration and unshakable will of the entire Chinese people, including the Taiwan compatriots, as well as an irresistible historical trend to end the state of separation between the two sides of the Strait and accomplish the grand cause of national reunification of China. In order to achieve national reunification, the Chinese Government proposed as early as over a decade ago the policy of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems". On 30 January 1995, the chinese President, Mr. Jiang Zemin, made an important statement in which he put forward an eight-point proposal on developing the relations between the two sides of the Strait and advancing the process of peaceful reunification of the motherland. This proposal has not only taken into consideration the long-term interests of the entire Chinese people but also accommodated and safeguarded the vital interests of the Taiwan compatriots, thus winning strong support from the entire Chinese people, including the Taiwan compatriots, as well as warm welcome from all people of insight that support China's reunification. The Chinese Government will adhere to this policy for a long time to come in order to promote the development of relations between the two sides of the Strait, thus creating more favourable conditions for peaceful reunification. There is no one in the world that is more concerned about the interests and future of the Taiwan compatriots than the Chinese Government and people. The reunification of the Chinese nation is the fundamental guarantee of the interests of the Taiwan compatriots. Only with the accomplishment of peaceful reunification can the Taiwan compatriots, together with other Chinese people of all ethnic groups, truly and fully enjoy the dignity and honour attained by their great motherland in the world. If the Taiwan authorities are really sincere, they should take concrete actions in this regard without any delay and, as the first step, talk with us about officially ending the state of hostility between the two sides and about other political issues on the basis of the "one China" principle. We welcome leaders of the Taiwan authorities to the mainland for a visit in an appropriate capacity. We are also ready to accept an invitation from the Taiwan side to visit Taiwan. We are convinced that the Chinese Government and people will continue to enjoy the understanding and support of the international community and Governments and peoples of Member States in their just cause of maintaining State sovereignty and territorial integrity.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 54 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) QIN Huasun
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic
of China to the United Nations

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Fifty-first session
Item 71 (g) of the provisional agenda*

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: REGIONAL DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 10 July 1996 from the Permanent Representatives of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a joint statement of the Heads of Government of the Baltic States on the Vienna conclusions of the Review Conference on the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (see annex). This document was adopted by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia, the Minister President of the Republic of Latvia and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania at a meeting held at Vilnius on 16 June 1996.

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 71 (g) of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Trivimi VELLISTE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Estonia to the
United Nations

(Signed) Aivars BAUMANIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Latvia to the
United Nations

(Signed) Oskaras JUSYS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Lithuania to the
United Nations

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ANNEX

Joint statement issued at Vilnius on 16 June 1996 by the Heads of Government of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania on the Vienna conclusions of the Review Conference on the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe

During our meeting on 16 June 1996 at Vilnius, we, the Heads of Government of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, discussed the Vienna conclusions of the Review Conference on the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE).

We welcomed the preservation of the CFE Treaty as one of the cornerstones of the European security.

We noted with satisfaction the strengthening of the mechanisms of verification and inspection as well as intensified exchange of military information agreed upon in the Review Conference.

We expressed our concern about the decisions which create conditions for an increase in the concentration of the armed forces in the Baltic region.

We noted the lack of political consultations before and during the CFE Treaty Review Conference between the CFE member States and other legitimately concerned countries.

We called for reiterated political support and increased technical assistance from the United States of America and West European countries pertaining to the integration of the Baltic States into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and European institutions.

Tiit VAHI	Andris ŠKELE	Mindaugas STANKEVIČIUS
Prime Minister	Minister President	Prime Minister
Republic of Estonia	Republic of Latvia	Republic of Lithuania